(c) The TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The responsibility for identification of BPL families and issue them ration cards lies with the State Governments. The system is operated through a vast network of about 4.83 lakh fair price shops scattered all over the country. In such a vast network possibilities of any irregularities including bogus ration cards cannot be ruled out. As per recent report of the Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission 16.67% of the foodgrains leakages are through Ghost Cards.

(d) and (e) The PEO report has not covered the Union Territory of Delhi. However with a view to cancel the bogus ration cards or the bogus units in the ration cards the PDS (Control) Order 2001 provides for review of lists of BPL and Antyodaya families every year to include the eligible families and exclude ineligible ones.

Revising procurement price of rice

2452. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government to revise the procurement price of rice by increasing Rs. 16.50 to Rs. 17.00 per quintal taking into account the increase in the minimum support price of paddy by Rs. 10 per quintal over last year's MSP;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for permitting a payment of transport charges upto 8 kms. for delivery of levy rice to the Food Corporation of India as the same was permitted prior to September, 2002;

(d) if so,the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Government of India to consider the requests of the rice millers to increase the price of levy rice in proportion with the increase in MSP during the last two years.

The price of levy rice payable to millers has been fixed as per the approved principles uniformly followed for all the States for kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2005-06. All elements which go into the costing of levy rice have been considered before fixing the price of levy rice. The increase in levy price in Andhra Pradesh in KMS 2005-06 as compared to KMS 2004-05 is as follows:—

	Raw rice	Parboiled
Common	Rs. 10.00	Rs. 25.10
Grade A	Rs. 9.50	Rs. 23.70

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. However the request was not acceded to since as per the approved principles for costing of levy rice of KMS 2003-04 onwards the milling charges taken into consideration of levy price costing include transportation charges for delivery of levy rice upto 8 km.

Requirement of foodgrains for welfare schemes

†2453. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION of be pleased to state:

(a) the actual stock of wheat and rice with Government and the quantum of foodgrains needed for the buffer stock;

(b) the estimated requirement of foodgrains for BPL related Targted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Sampurna Gramin Yojana, Mid-day Meal Scheme, Food for Work Programme and other schemes for the years 2006 and 2007; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government for providing foodgrains for all the schemes?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The stock of wheat and rice in the Central Pool as on 1.2.2006 was as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

Wheat	48.74
Rice	139.65
TOTAL:	188.39

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.